BRUTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee on Tuesday 17 November 2026, at 7.30pmm in Bruton Community Hall.

Councillors present: Cllrs Bateman, Coulter, Dunn, Fradley, Hood.
In the Chair: Cllr Coulter from agenda item FR26/28.
Officers present: Town Clerk.
Public session: not required, no members of the public present
Meeting started: 7.30pm

MINUTES

FR26/27: Election of Chair.

Both the Chair and Vice Chair of this committee will not be present, and a Chair for the meeting must be elected as the first order of business.

The clerk led this agenda item for the election of Chair. It was proposed that Cllr Coulter is elected as Chair.

It was RESOLVED [5-0-0][For-Against-Abstain] that Cllr Coulter is elected as Chair for this meeting.

FR26/28: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

To receive and approve any apologies of absence and to approve the reasons given.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anderton and Jones.

It was RESOLVED [5-0-0] to approve the apologies received and the reasons given.

FR26/29: Declarations of interest.

Declarations of Interests Members to declare any interests, including disclosable pecuniary interests, they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any written requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e) (This does not preclude any later declaration).

Cllr Dunn declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item FR26/32 grant applications. (Museum and SSCAT bus).

Cllr Hood declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item FR26/32 grant applications. (Choral Society).

FR26/30: Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 October 2026 (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 41 (1)).

To agree the minutes from the meeting on 13 October 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

It was RESOLVED [5-0-0] to agree the minutes from the meeting on 13 October 2026 as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Coulter signed the minutes.

FR26/31: Clerk's Report.

To receive a short oral report from the clerk, a summary of which can be found on the town council website.

The clerk briefly overviewed the report as published on the website.

FR26/32: Community Grants.

To consider the Community Grant applications for the next financial year, as part of the budget setting process.

The list of Community Grant applications was discussed in the order as listed below in the table, as well as recommendations agreed for Full Council to consider in January 2027.

Councillors raised concerns during the discussions that if an organisation's accounts show significant reserves, or surplus funds that are unexplained, that it would be beneficial to have some explanation of the financial situation. The clerk suggested that a more formal application form needs to be considered, which would set out the supporting information, for future years.

Cllr Hood left the meeting at 7.37pm and rejoined at 7.38pm whilst the Choral Society grant application was discussed.

Cllr Dunn left the meeting at 7.43pm and rejoined at 7.47pm, whilst the Museum and SSCAT Bus grant applications were discussed.

The following comments were made:

- Further information regarding the library reserves would have been beneficial. Councillors feel that the library provision should be supported by the town council. However the level of reserves held suggest that the grant is not essential for the upcoming year, and have agreed to recommend that the grant is not awarded.
- The Bruton Mini Day application was agreed. Councillors suggested that they could apply to Good Company for further funding if required, or come back to the town council again during the year.

- The Museum reserves appear to be quite substantial but no supporting information was available. Councillors present agreed to recommend a grant of £1000 (half the amount requested).
- Although Bruton United Football Club applied for £1900, councillors agreed to recommend a grant award of £1500, as previous years.
- Citizens advice. It was recommended that this application is supported, but the clerk is to strongly recommend that consideration of providing an outreach service is essential to support Bruton Residents. Cllr Hood shared that Good Company had offered to provide premises and volunteers at no cost to the Citizens Advice, but this offer was refused. The clerk is to follow this up with Citizens Advice when communication takes place about the grant award.

Organisation	**Amount applied for**	**recommended 2027/2028**	**RESOLVED**
Bruton Community Hall	£1000	£1000	**[5-0-0]**
Bruton Choral Society	£500	£500	**[4-0-0]**
Bruton Library	£1500	£0	**[1-4-0] not awarded**
Bruton Mini Day	£200	£200	**[5-0-0]**
Bruton Museum	£2000	£1000	**[4-0-0]**
SSCAT Bus	£1750	£1750	**[4-0-0]**
Bruton United FC	£1900	£1500	**[5-0-0]**
Christmas Bruton CoC	£3500	£3500	**[5-0-0]**
Citizens Advice	£1110	£1110	**[5-0-0]**
Festival of Light	£450	£450	**[5-0-0]**
Friends of Bruton Railway Station	£175	£175	**[5-0-0]**
Jubilee Park Pavilion	£2000	£2000	**[5-0-0]**
Promise Works	£900	£900	**[5-0-0]**
SSCAT (Bus)	£1750	£1750	**[5-0-0]**

Organisation	Amount applied for	recommended 2027/2028	RESOLVED
Scouts	£500	£500	**[5-0-0]**
The Growing Space	£1100	£1100	**[5-0-0]**
Freeing Loneless, Offering Community (FLOC)	£1425	£500	**[5-0-0]**
Totals	**£20100**	**£16185**	

Agenda item FR26/36: Youth contract, this was brought forward to discuss prior to the wider discussion about the budget as a whole.

FR26/36: Youth Contract

To receive any updates and consider any next actions as required. To make recommendations to full council as appropriate.

- Communication has been received regarding the cost of the youth contract for the next calendar year. Two options have been provided by the contractor; one suggested contract value, and one preferred contract value, which is an increase of almost 50%.
- It is hoped that during the tender process, with the South East Local Community Network (LCN) engaging with all parish and town councils within that LCN to take part in the provision, that the overall contract value will be reduced. Grant funding applications are being submitted to various organisations, again with a view to reducing the contract value.

It was RESOLVED [5-0-0] to recommend to Full Council to agree in the budget to pay the Option 2 Contract Value.

The clerk has altered the draft budget to reflect the increase.

FR26/33: Budget 2027/2028 including review of Earmarked Reserves.

a. To consider the 2027/2028 budget as a whole.

Key areas of the budget were considered, that had changed from the previous finance and resources meeting.

- Replacement laptops for officers has been added as a new budget line, £3000.
- The youth contract budget has increased to £16,000, to reflect the increase and the preferred option 2 value.
- The income for interest next year has been increased by £3000.

- The minor amendments in the proposed Community Grant awards to be applied.
- Replacement benches at Packhorse Bridge were discussed. The proposed budget of £5000 is to remain, but the quantity and type of replacement picnic bench is a matter for Town Committee to consider.
- Patwell Pump and the Engine Shed were also discussed. A quote is expected for the required works for the Engine Shed, and an indicative value of the costing for the repairs to Patwell Pump. It is possible that the current budget value may be revised. The clerk also confirmed that appropriate replacement tiles could be available for purchase. The Assistant Clerk is obtaining further details.
- Reserves were discussed again. Councillors are happy with the current level of reserves, and the proposed reserve budget lines for next year.
- The Community Infrastructure Levy reserve (CIL) was discussed. Councillors are minded to allocate this funding toward replacement play equipment, again to be discussed further.

b. To note the spend to budget figures to 31 October 2026, as presented.

Noted.

FR26/34: Internal Audit visit

To receive the summary, and the report if available, from the Internal Audit (interim audit) that took place on 5 November, and consider any recommendations.

The clerk overviewed the report. The actions from mainly concern Data Compliance (Assertion 10), and need to completed by the full council meeting in March 2027.

FR26/35: Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) (deferred from the October 2026 meeting).

a. To receive a short report regarding the changes to the AGAR from 2026/2027.

The clerk overviewed the changes, and the proposed timescales.

b. To discuss the action plan for Data Compliance (previously referred to as AGAR assertion 10), and decide upon any next actions.

Not discussed.

c. To consider the most appropriate committee (or full council) for the initial consideration of any new policies required regarding the Data Compliance parts of the AGAR.

Not discussed.

FR26/37: Date of next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12 January 2027, 7.30pm, in Bruton Community Hall.

Agenda items to the clerk by 4 January 2027 please.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm

END OF MINUTES